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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/879,438	06/12/2001	Michael Miettinen	442-010339-US(PAR)	3541
7590	01/30/2006		EXAMINER	
Perman & Green 425 Post Road Fairfield, CT 06430-6232			PILLAI, NAMITHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2173	
DATE MAILED: 01/30/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/879,438	MIETTINEN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Namitha Pillai	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 17-32,34-38 and 40-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 17-32, 34-38 and 40-56 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Appeal Brief

1. The Examiner acknowledges Applicant's submission of an Appeal Brief on 11/10/05. The Examiner has considered Applicant's arguments concerning Shadow Gestures and whether this reference has disclosed the features claimed in the present invention. It has been determined that Shadow Gestures does not clearly refer to a set of at least two alternatives from which the user of Shadow Gestures can select using the gesture feature taught in both the present claims and Shadow Gestures. Prosecution has been reopened based on these arguments presented in the Appeal Brief. The new reference U. S. Patent No. 5,381,158 (Takahara et al.), herein referred to as Takahara teaches a selection of alternatives that are located in a space surrounding the user and further teaches gesturing features has disclosed in the present claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 17 and 35 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 112, second paragraph for including the term "***substantially***" when referring to the locations of the positions which renders the claim indefinite. This term is ambiguous and does not clearly define a distinct value when referring to the location feature.

Since claims 18-23 and 36-37 depend on claims 17 and 35 and include all of the limitations of this claim, claims 18-23 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

3. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph for reciting the limitation "an arcuate area" in a certain sector selected by the user. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 17, from which this claim depends on has referred to "an arcuate area", it is not clear whether the "an arcuate area" referred to in claim 35 is the same or different from the "an arcuate area" claimed previously in claim 17.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

40-47,49-56

4. Claims 17-32, 34-38 and 40-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahara and U. S. Patent No. 6, 448, 987 B1 (Easty et al), herein referred to as Easty.

As per claims 17 (method), 24 (device), and 52 (user interface), Takahara discloses a method for recognizing a selection a set of at least two alternatives (column 1, lines 11-14), the method comprising:

Takahara discloses determining the positions corresponding to each alternative in the space surrounding a user on the basis of their direction with respect to the user

so that the locations of the positions remain substantially the same with respect to user irrespective of the location of the user (Figure 1 and column 2, lines 55-67). Takahara teaches the user surrounded by alternatives within a three dimensional space, with the positions being respective to the user irrespective of the location of the user within this three dimensional space.

Takahara discloses allowing the user to carry out a first movement for moving a member of the body to a position corresponding to an alternative the user desires with the holding of the alternative being the first movement (column 4, lines 4-8).

Takahara discloses recognizing a second movement carried out by the user in the position corresponding to the alternative the user desires and in response to the second movement, recognizing the selection the user desires as completed. Takahara disclosing the flipping as the second movement and with this flipping movement by the arm determining that the user chooses to delete a selected alternative. See column 4, lines 4-8.

Takahara also discloses providing the recognizing selection as an output with the output displaying deleting of the alternative.

Takahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein said positions are sectors on an actuate area and first movement comprises moving the member of the body to a certain sector on said arcuate area.

Easty discloses the limitation of wherein said positions are sectors on an arcuate area and movement comprises moving the member of the body to a certain sector on said arcuate area as the technique of the main feature of menu structure for the GUI

comprises two or more concentric rings each representing a level of the menu item system. Each menu ring comprises a plurality of icons identifying the menu item. The icons on an outer menu ring represent the categories of digital contents offered through the digital content delivery system, such as television, movies, music or the like (see col. 2 line 62 to col. 3 line 1), in the illustrated embodiment, the icons 11a and 12a on each menu ring 11 and 12 have arcuate shapes of substantially equally spaced along the respective circles (see col. 4, lines 29-32), and when an icon 11a is selected from the outer ring 11, in addition to rotating the outer ring to the new setting, the inner ring 12 is displayed with appropriate icons identifying the available subcategories associated with the selected category. For example, if the “music” category is selected from the outer ring 11, the icons displayed on the inner ring will include rock, classical, top 40, Jazz (see col. 5, lines 45-51 and see Fig. 1b).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Easty's teaching of wherein said positions are sectors on an arcuate area and movement comprises moving the member of the body to a certain sector on said arcuate area into that of Takahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of characterizing digital content and its hierarchically associated information into different classes and thus allowing those digital contents delivery to an end user based on user's selection. Takahara has disclosed displaying of alternatives in a three-dimensional format, where the arcuate area of Easty would further provide an efficient means through which the alternatives could be displayed and accessible to the user of Takahara.

As per claim 45 (system), due to the mostly similarity of this claim to that of claim 17 (method), except for the system comprising: a central processing unit, a three dimensional display device, the central unit comprising communication means for communicating positions corresponding to selection alternatives to the three dimensional display device are taught by Takahara (column 5, lines 25-42). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 18 (method) and 25 (device), Takahara and Easty discloses showing virtual images in each position showing an arcuate area with a plurality of sectors and informing the alternative corresponding to a position, audiophonically (column 7, lines 8-15). These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above. Takahara and Easty do not explicitly display that the alternative selections are at the level of the user's waist. It would have been obvious for one skilled in the art, at the time of the invention to teach that Takahara display the alternatives at the level of the user's waist. Takahara teaches that the alternatives are displayed in a three dimensional virtual reality environment and as is displayed in Figure 1, shows that the alternative selections are displayed along various levels relative to the user's body. Hence, it would have been obvious for further levels to be displayed in this three dimensional environment that is at the level of the user's waist, whereas there is already a display of alternatives at the level of the user's stomach.

As per claims 19 (method) and 26 (device), the limitation of demonstrating to the user the alternative indicated at any given time is taught by Takahara (column 2, lines

48-51), where the displayed alternatives are accessible to the user at any time. These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 20 (method) and 27 (device), the limitation of recognizing the second movement contactlessly is taught by Takahara (column 8, lines 26-32), with the flipping indicating placing a finger in a certain position. These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 21 (method) and 28 (device), the limitation of wherein the first movement is the movement of the user's hand is taught by Takahara (column 7, lines 1-5), the cited example teaching how the hand is used to initiate an input command. These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 22 (method), the limitation of carry out the first function in response to the output is taught by Takahara (column 4, lines 4-6). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 29 (device), the limitation of carrying out a first function in response to the second movement is taught by Takahara (column 4, lines 4-6), the second movement resulting in deleting a selected alternative. This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claims 23 (method) and 30 (device), the limitation of allowing the user to carry out certain second activity with a specific third movement of the member of the body is taught by Takahara (column 4, lines 5-15), teaching a third movement that allows for user to input a different command for a activity desired on the selected alternative. These claims are therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claim 31, the limitation of recognizing the second movement carried out by the user in the position are adapted to be attached to the user is taught by Takahara (column 4, lines 4-8), with the flipping command being attached to the user as the user carries out this command on a selected alternative. This claim is therefore rejected for the reason as set forth above.

As per claims 32 (device) and 46 (system), Takahara discloses that the device includes a mobile station (reference number 116, Figure 1), a television apparatus (reference number 100, Figure 1) and an electronic book (reference number 70, Figure 17).

As per claims 34 (method), 40 (device), and 49 (system). Takahara discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Takahara, however, does not disclose the limitation of wherein arcuate area is selection disc.

Easty discloses the limitation of wherein arcuate area is selection disc as the technique of the main feature of menu structure for the GUI comprises two or more concentric rings each representing a level of the menu item system. Each menu ring comprises a plurality of icons identifying the menu item. The icons on an outer menu ring represent the categories of digital contents offered through the digital content delivery system, such as television, movies, music or the like (see col. 2 line 62 to col. 3 line 1).

It would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Easty's teaching of wherein arcuate area is hierarchical selection menu disc into that of Takahara's invention. By doing so, the system would be

enhanced by capable of allowing user option to select any desired menu item in the multi levels concentric menu based on user desired.

As per claims 35 (method) and 41 (device), Takahara and Easty disclose that the first movement is substantially horizontal arcuate movement of the hand to a certain sector of the arcuate area situated substantially in a horizontal plane (Figures 7 and 9), where an example of a first movement teaches the movement of the hand is a horizontal movement.

As per claims 36 (method) and 42 (device), Takahara discloses that the second movement is a substantially vertical movement of a hand at a certain sector (Figure 4 and column 8, lines 18-25), with the movement command taught in this cited example including a vertical movement of the hand and the fingers for determining this command.

As per claims 37 (method) and 43 (device), Takahara discloses that the second movement is placing a hand into a certain position at the certain sector (column 4, lines 4-8), where flipping involves placing a hand into a certain position at the certain sector of the alternative to be selected.

As per claims 38 (method) and 44 (device), the limitation of determining the positions corresponding to each alternative in the space surrounding a user also on the basis of their distance with respect to the user is taught by Takahara (column 2, lines 55-65), where the alternatives are placed with respect to the user based on distance for sight and movement of body relative to the alternatives. These claims are therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 47, the limitation of recognizing is a camera is taught by Takahara (column 14, lines 3-6). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 50, the limitation of wherein the three-dimensional display device and the means for recognizing are comprised in the same unit is taught by Takahara (column 5, lines 25-45). This claim is therefore rejected for the reasons as set forth above.

As per claim 51, Takahara discloses that the three dimensional display device is virtual glasses (Figure 1 and column 5, lines 30-32).

Referring to claims 53-56, Takahara discloses allowing the user to do the first movement of a member of the body allows the user to move a first member of the body and the recognizing of the second movement recognizes the movement of a second member of the body. Takahara discloses that the first and second members of the body are a common member of the body of the user and the first member of the body the body is a hand and the second member of the body is the fingers of the hand. Takahara teaches movements including first and second movements that require movement of the hand and further movement of the fingers for the users to choose a command to be applied to a selected alternative.

5. Claim 48 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahara and Easty and further in view of Kumar et al. (USPN: 6,624,833) hereinafter Kumar.

As per claim 48, Takahara- Easty discloses the invention substantially as claimed above. Takahara- Easty, however, do not disclose the limitation of wherein the means for recognizing is a shape tape.

Kumar discloses the limitation of recognizing is a shape tape as the technique of the system 10 can of course be utilizing with other types of information processing devices (see col. 5, lines 33-34).

It would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include Kumar's teaching of recognizing is a shape tape into that of Takahara-Easty combined invention. By doing so, the system would be enhanced by capable of allowing user to select shape tape device for recognizing and recording user movement in virtual environment.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 11/10/05 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111(c) to consider these references fully when responding to this action. The documents cited therein teach the method for displaying virtual selection data.

Responses to this action should be submitted as per the options cited below: The United States Patent and Trademark Office requires most patent related correspondence to be: a) faxed to the Central Fax number (571-273-8300) b) hand

carried or delivered to the Customer Service Window (located at the Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314), c) mailed to the mailing address set forth in 37 CFR 1 . 1 (e.g., P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450), or d) transmitted to the Office using the Office's Electronic Filing System.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (571) 272-4054. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (571) 272-4048.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Namitha Pillai
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Art Unit 2173
January 23, 2006



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